

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 464 - SB 540

February 17, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Amends the definition of abandonment to include a parent or guardian who failed to visit or support their child for four consecutive months immediately preceding the filing of a supplemental petition to terminate rights. Deletes the requirement that a court order a home study within five days of the surrender of a child. Clarifies that a putative father registry must be consulted within 10 working days of filing a petition to terminate parental rights. Deletes the requirement for a putative father whose name is on the child's birth certificate to be formally terminated before a child may be adopted if that individual has not filed a petition to establish paternity. Alters the definition of severe child abuse to require only one qualified expert's opinion on the abuse.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 36-1-111(p)(1) currently states that a court must order a home study within five days of the receipt of the surrender of a child or upon filing a parental consent for adoption, if certain conditions are met.
- Home studies will still be required under other circumstances; the removal of the requirement for a court to order a home study within five days of the surrender of a child will not significantly impact the operations of the courts.
- Changing the definition of severe child abuse will not have a significant impact on the operations of the Department of Children's Services (DCS).
- Tennessee Code Annotated § 36-1-113(d)(3) currently requires that a putative father registry must be consulted within 10 days of filing a petition to terminate parental rights. The proposed legislation clarifies that it must be 10 working days.
- Any fiscal impact to DCS as a result of this legislation will be not significant.

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CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/cd